

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

FOCUS ON LONDON

2010



POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Introduction

London is the United Kingdom's only city region. Its **population of 7.75 million** is 12.5 per cent of the UK population living on just 0.6 per cent of the land area. The average population density is over 4,900 persons per square kilometre, this is ten times that of the second most densely populated region, the North West. London is second to the South East in terms of the size of its population, which is larger than that of Scotland and Northern Ireland combined (Table 1).

Between 2001 and 2009 London's **population grew by over 430 thousand**, more than any other region, accounting for over 16 per cent of the UK increase. Only the East and East Midlands regions grew more rapidly than London's 5.9 per cent over the eight years (Table 2).

Table 1: Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2009

	Number	%
South East	8,435,700	13.7
London	7,753,600	12.5
North West	6,897,900	11.2
East	5,766,600	9.3
West Midlands	5,431,100	8.8
Yorkshire & the Humber	5,258,100	8.5
South West	5,231,200	8.5
Scotland	5,194,000	8.4
East Midlands	4,451,200	7.2
Wales	2,999,300	4.9
North East	2,584,300	4.2
Northern Ireland	1,788,900	2.9

Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year estimates

Table 2: Increase in Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2001-2009

	Number	%
London	431,200	5.9
South East	412,300	5.1
East	366,200	6.8
South West	287,900	5.8
Yorkshire & the Humber	281,500	5.7
East Midlands	261,600	6.2
West Midlands	150,400	2.8
Scotland	129,800	2.6
North West	124,900	1.8
Northern Ireland	99,600	5.9
Wales	89,100	3.1
North East	44,200	1.7

Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year estimates

Executive Summary

- > The mid-2009 estimate of London's population showed that there were **7,753,600** residents accounting for **12.5%** of total UK population.
- > Between 2001 and 2009 London's population increased by **431,200** people accounting for over **16%** of the UK increase.
- > Natural change accounted for **510,000** new Londoners over the 2001-2009 period.
- > Between 2001-2009 London attracted **1,380,000** migrants from Overseas and **1,460,000** from the rest of the UK. Of those leaving London **2,100,000** went to the rest of the UK and only **820,000** went Overseas.
- > The net in flow from Overseas was **560,000** thousand and the net loss to the rest of the UK was **640,000**.
- > In 2008-09 natural change led to **78,000** more Londoners compared to only **8,000** due to migration.
- > In 2008 **55%** of births in London were to women born outside the UK.
- > **Four of the top five** inter-regional flows in the UK are to or from London.
- > In 2001-02 of all inter-regional flows London only had a net in flow from the North East. In 2008-09 London had net gains from all regions except for East, South East and South West.
- > The only age group with a net in flow to London from the rest of the UK is the **20-29** age group.
- > Since 2001 London has seen its share of total immigration to the UK fall from around **37** to **28** per cent.
- > The number of immigrants coming to the UK from the Twelve EU Accession countries and obtaining a National Insurance Number increased from **11,300** in 2002/03 to **74,400** in 2008/09. In the same time span the number of asylum seekers fell from **37,700** to **8,900**.
- > Between 2011 and 2031 London's population is projected to increase by **13%** and reach **8,828,800** people.

Population Age Structure

Since 2001 the growth in London's population has been concentrated in two age ranges; 0-6 and 37-52 (Chart 1). There has been a significant rise in the annual number of births since 2001 that accounts for the increase amongst the very young. The increase in the older range is mainly an artefact of the ageing of the large number of residents aged 29-44 in 2001, many of whom had been part of the large British birth cohorts of the 1960s. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of children aged seven to 16, also reflecting past trends in births and the tendency for families with younger children to move away from London. The young age structure of London with a very noticeable peak of population around the late 20s and early 30s is in marked contrast to the age structure of the UK as a whole.

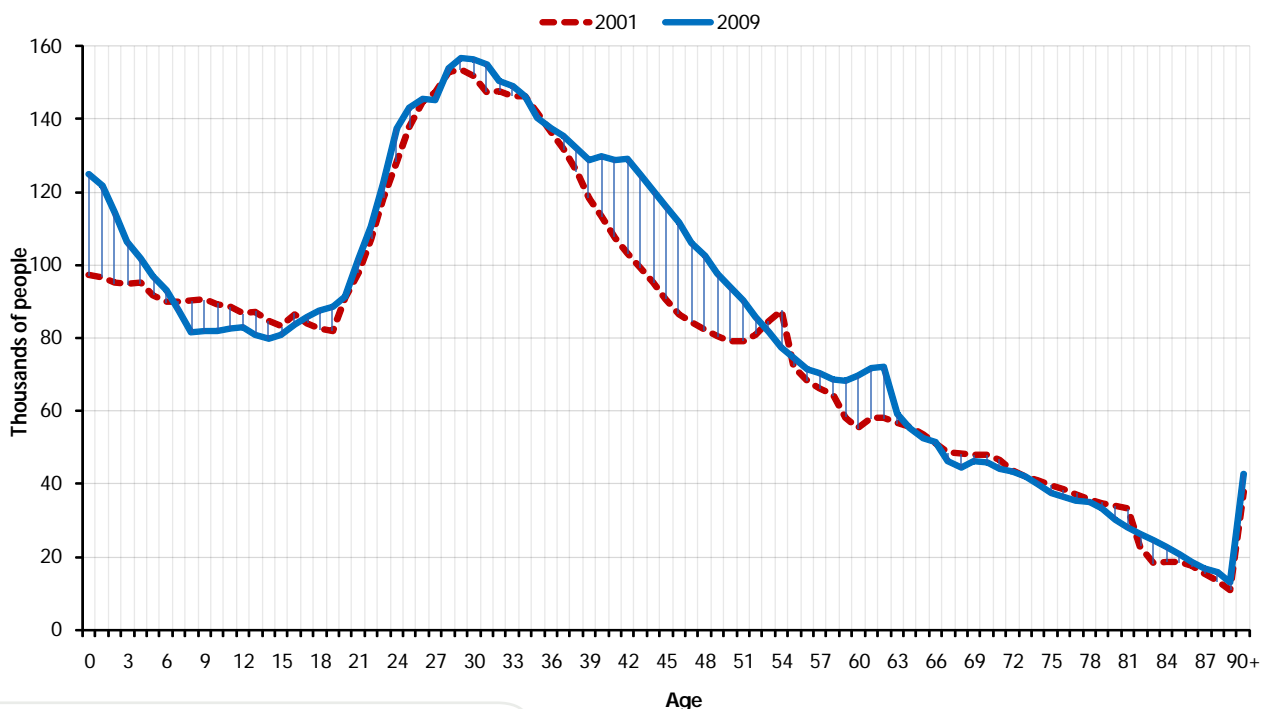
There are relatively few people in the UK at age 32 – reflecting the lowest recent birth numbers recorded in 1977 – yet this is one of the largest cohorts resident in London (Chart 2, p.6). Beyond age 45 London has relatively fewer residents at all ages, particularly so from the late 50s. The average age of a Londoner is 37 compared with 40 for the UK as a whole. There is an even larger difference comparing median ages (that is the age where half the population is older and half younger) with London at 34 and the UK at 39.

London's age structure is a legacy of the migration changes that have occurred over the last few decades with young migrants arriving in the capital while more mature workers with families and persons around retirement age leave. The age structure also influences the annual numbers of events and the statistical measures of fertility and mortality. This is discussed in later sections.

Half of Londoners are 34 or younger while the equivalent age for the United Kingdom is 39.

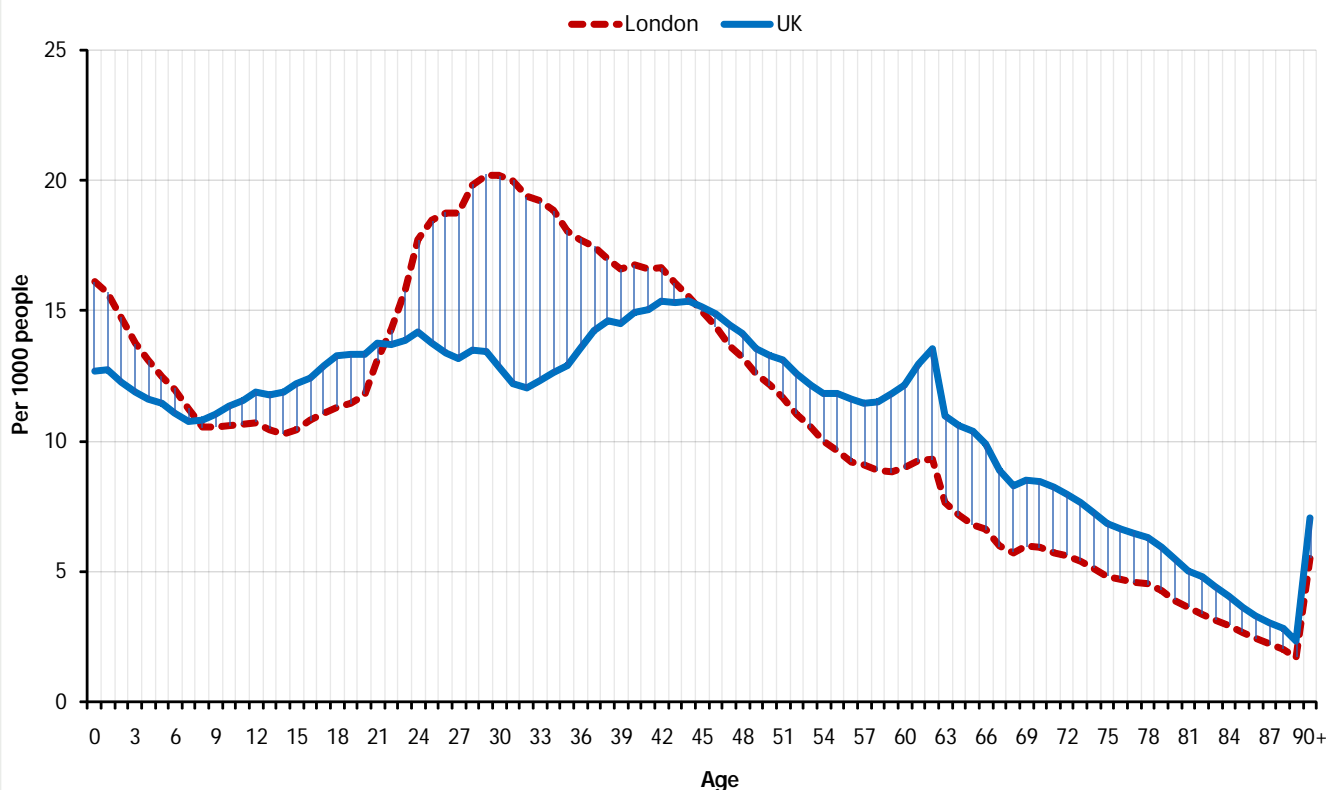
The mid-2009 populations of the London boroughs are shown with broad age groupings in the Annex (Table 16, p.25). Newham had proportionally nearly twice the child population of Westminster while Havering had more than twice the retirement age population of Tower Hamlets. The main working ages as a whole were distributed more evenly ranging from Havering with just over 60 per cent to Westminster with over 74 per cent. However the age structures within this broad grouping also showed distinct borough characteristics with a younger profile in inner London boroughs.

Chart 1: Population Age Structure, London, 2001 and 2009, thousands



Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year estimates

Chart 2: Population Age Structure, United Kingdom and London, 2009, rates per thousand



Source: Office for National Statistics, mid-year estimates

Components of Change

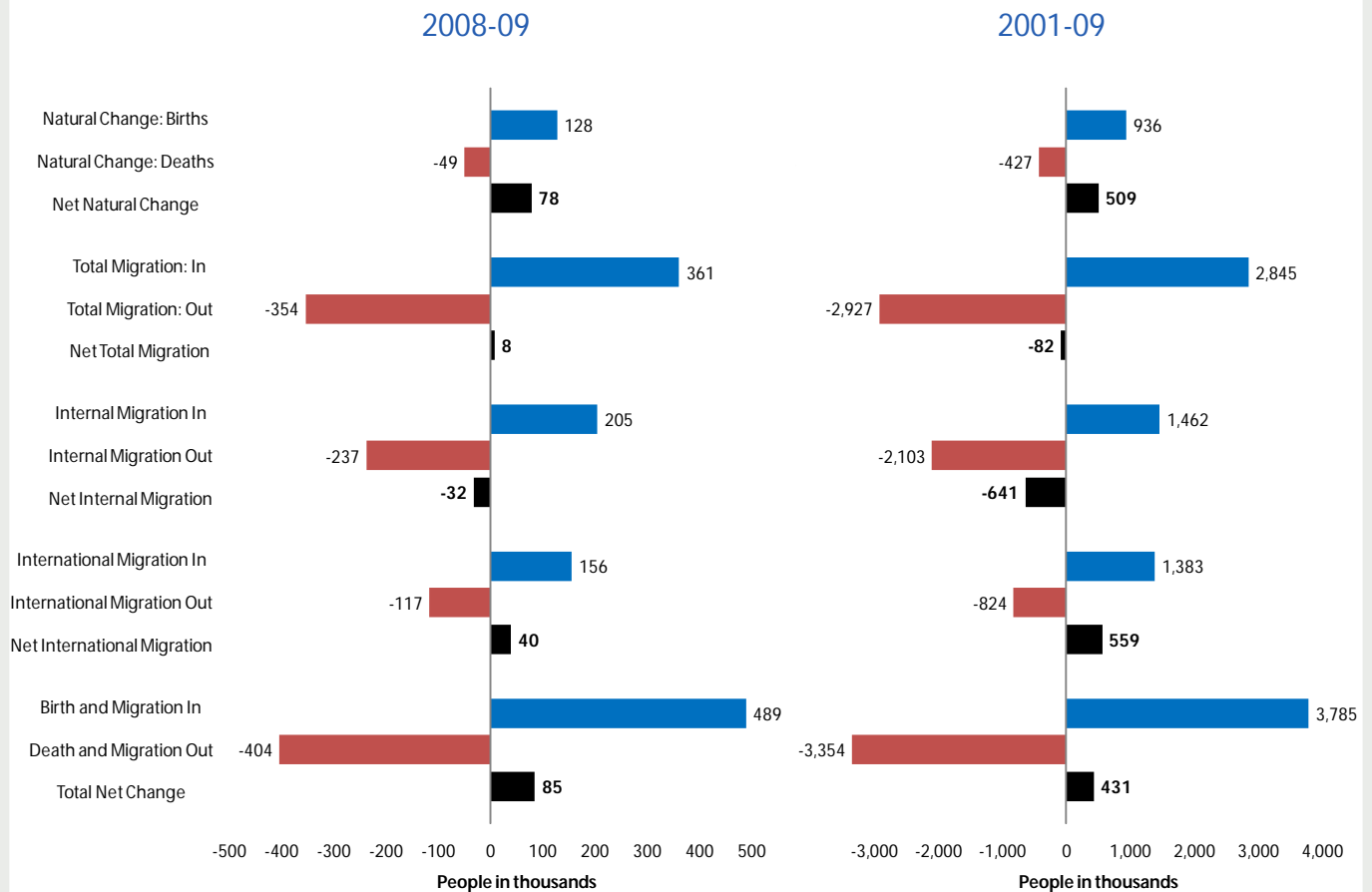
When separating out the main components of London's recent population increase, in purely numerical terms, it is natural change (births less deaths) that has had the major influence (Chart 3, p.7). Not only has natural change accounted for a 510 thousand increase over the eight years, it has increased its contribution year-on-year from 47 thousand in 2001-02 to 78 thousand in 2008-09. This change is a combination of a 23 thousand (22 per cent) increase in births and a reduction of eight thousand deaths. In recent years London has contributed a substantial share of natural change in the UK. In 2008-09 this was 36 per cent, compared with its 12.5 per cent share of the UK population. London's share has declined in recent years as the numbers of births have increased in all parts of the UK.

Natural change accounted for an increase of 510,000 in London's population over the 2001-2009 period.

In the last eight years London's overall net migration has been a loss of over 80 thousand, but this single statistic not only obscures the huge volumes of inflows and outflows but also the balance between migrants within the UK and those to and from Overseas. In this period the average annual inflow to London has been 356 thousand, with 366 thousand persons leaving. This means that on average 4.7 per cent of London's residents lived elsewhere a year earlier.

Between 2001 and 2009 London attracted 1.38 million migrants from Overseas and 1.46 million from the rest of the UK. Of those leaving London 2.10 million went to the rest of the UK and only 820 thousand went Overseas. The net inflow from Overseas was 560 thousand and the net loss to the rest of the UK was 640 thousand.

Chart 3: Annual Mid-year Estimate Change
Analysis, London, 2001-02 to 2008-09, thousands



Source: Office for National Statistics

In the last two years the inflow from Overseas has fallen to the lowest levels in the decade while the, more volatile, outflow has increased. In 2008-09 the net international inflow was less than half of its level in 2001-02. The net loss from London to the rest of the UK was also at a recent low level in 2008-09 as a result of a sharp drop in the outflow from London and the inflow reaching record levels. The annual net loss is at less than a third of its level in 2002-04 and is less than half of the level in 2007-08. The recent changes in migration flows are discussed in more detail on page 10.

All boroughs had more births than deaths in 2008-09 and in the majority natural change had an higher absolute impact on overall population change than net migration (Table 3, p.8). The eight exceptions include only two – Kensington & Chelsea and Newham - where a net migration loss exceeded the natural increase.

As would be expected from the migration flows for London, the majority of boroughs – 18 - gain population from international flows and lose through internal flows.

However eight boroughs gain from both internal and international flows while three – Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth and Southwark – have been estimated to have lost to both. Overall only two boroughs are estimated to have lost population in 2008-09 – Kensington & Chelsea and Newham. Since 2001 the populations of all boroughs have been estimated to have increased except for Brent and Newham.

In 2008-09 natural change had an overall higher impact on London's population than migration.

Table 3: Annual Mid-year Estimate Change Analysis, London boroughs, 2008-09, thousands

	Population mid-2008	Natural Change			Migration							Total Change	Population mid-2009
		Births	Deaths	Net	Internal (UK)			International			Total Net		
					In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net			
City of London	11.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	11.5
Barking and Dagenham	171.5	3.7	1.4	2.3	11.1	10.7	0.4	2.6	1.1	1.5	1.9	4.1	175.6
Barnet	338.1	5.2	2.4	2.8	20.7	20.1	0.6	5.9	4.2	1.7	2.3	5.0	343.1
Bexley	225.0	2.9	2.0	1.0	9.7	10.0	-0.3	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.9	225.9
Brent	254.5	5.0	1.6	3.4	17.0	22.2	-5.2	6.6	3.8	2.8	-2.4	1.0	255.5
Bromley	308.0	4.0	2.6	1.3	14.6	13.9	0.8	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.8	2.1	310.2
Camden	226.5	3.1	1.1	1.9	21.4	22.2	-0.8	10.3	6.7	3.6	2.8	4.8	231.2
Croydon	341.2	5.2	2.5	2.8	17.8	20.0	-2.1	4.3	3.1	1.3	-0.9	1.6	342.8
Ealing	312.1	5.5	1.9	3.6	21.4	23.3	-1.9	8.8	6.0	2.8	0.9	4.5	316.6
Enfield	289.0	4.9	2.1	2.8	16.5	18.3	-1.7	2.7	1.6	1.1	-0.6	2.2	291.2
Greenwich	223.7	4.4	1.7	2.8	14.8	17.6	-2.8	5.1	2.5	2.7	-0.1	2.4	226.1
Hackney	212.8	4.4	1.1	3.3	18.0	18.8	-0.8	3.5	2.9	0.6	-0.2	3.2	216.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	168.6	2.7	0.9	1.8	17.3	17.2	0.1	5.2	6.1	-0.9	-0.8	1.1	169.7
Haringey	225.3	4.2	1.1	3.1	18.6	22.0	-3.4	3.9	3.4	0.5	-2.9	0.2	225.5
Harrow	225.4	3.3	1.4	1.8	13.8	14.7	-0.9	3.6	1.8	1.9	1.0	2.8	228.1
Havering	232.3	2.7	2.2	0.5	9.7	8.3	1.5	0.6	0.7	-0.1	1.4	1.8	234.1
Hillingdon	258.1	4.1	1.9	2.3	15.6	15.2	0.4	3.6	1.8	1.8	2.3	4.5	262.5
Hounslow	230.2	4.2	1.4	2.8	15.7	17.5	-1.8	6.8	3.8	3.0	1.2	4.0	234.2
Islington	188.5	2.9	1.1	1.8	21.4	20.6	0.8	5.3	4.5	0.7	1.6	3.4	191.8
Kensington and Chelsea	171.1	2.2	0.8	1.4	11.2	12.2	-0.9	6.1	7.7	-1.6	-2.6	-1.2	169.9
Kingston upon Thames	164.6	2.3	1.0	1.3	12.0	12.5	-0.5	3.2	1.8	1.4	0.9	2.1	166.7
Lambeth	281.4	4.8	1.6	3.2	28.4	29.4	-1.0	6.0	6.3	-0.3	-1.3	1.9	283.3
Lewisham	262.0	4.8	1.7	3.1	20.0	21.2	-1.2	3.5	2.9	0.6	-0.6	2.5	264.5
Merton	202.8	3.4	1.2	2.2	14.7	15.4	-0.6	5.4	3.3	2.1	1.5	3.7	206.4
Newham	242.4	5.9	1.4	4.5	16.1	23.9	-7.9	5.4	3.3	2.2	-5.7	-1.2	241.2
Redbridge	263.8	4.1	1.8	2.3	17.2	16.4	0.8	3.4	2.6	0.8	1.6	3.9	267.7
Richmond upon Thames	187.2	2.8	1.1	1.7	13.1	12.6	0.5	2.4	2.8	-0.4	0.1	1.8	189.0
Southwark	283.0	5.0	1.5	3.5	23.3	26.3	-3.1	6.4	4.3	2.2	-0.9	2.6	285.6
Sutton	189.5	2.7	1.4	1.3	10.3	9.0	1.4	1.2	1.0	0.1	1.5	2.8	192.2
Tower Hamlets	226.8	4.2	1.1	3.1	20.3	19.3	1.1	8.6	4.9	3.7	4.8	7.9	234.8
Waltham Forest	221.4	4.5	1.5	3.1	13.8	16.6	-2.8	5.5	2.8	2.7	-0.2	2.9	224.3
Wandsworth	283.7	5.3	1.6	3.7	30.1	29.2	0.9	6.4	8.1	-1.7	-0.8	2.9	286.6
Westminster	246.6	2.9	1.1	1.9	19.7	21.1	-1.4	10.8	8.4	2.4	1.0	2.8	249.4
London	7,668.3	127.7	49.3	78.5	546.5	578.4	-31.9	156.2	116.7	39.6	7.6	85.2	7,753.6

Source: Office for National Statistics

Fertility and Mortality

As discussed above natural change is the biggest driver of London's total population change, and it plays a significant part in UK population growth.

Looking first at fertility, in 2008-09 London contributed 16.2 per cent of all UK births, however its recent fertility profile is little different to that of the UK (Table 4). The simplest reference measure for fertility is the crude birth rate – births per thousand resident population. By this measure fertility in London was much higher than in the UK (16.7 compared with 12.9 in 2008). A more subtle measure is the general fertility rate (GFR) - births per thousand resident women aged 15-44. Even here London is ahead of the UK at 69 compared to 63. However, it is age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) and the total fertility rate (TFR - the estimated lifetime births per woman based on current age-specific rates) that reveal the underlying differences between London and the UK. London exhibits age-specific fertility rates a little lower than the UK at ages below 35 but much higher rates for older women, however the total fertility rates of the two areas are extremely close (1.95 for London and 1.96 for the UK).

The total number of births in London reflects not just the high proportion of women aged 15-44, but also the distribution of those women in the ages of the highest fertility, the late 20s and early 30s.

Age-specific fertility rates in London are lower than the UK at ages below 35 but much greater for women above that age.

It is interesting to compare fertility measures for 1991 with 2008 as there were almost the same numbers of births, just over 790 thousand, in the UK in each year. However in London births rose from 106 thousand to 128 thousand. Both the crude birth rates and general fertility rates are higher in London, but in London the rates have risen while in the UK they have fallen. The age-specific fertility rates show a consistent change with the highest rates being at 30-34, rather than 25-29, increases at the older age groups and declines amongst the younger. At the ages where fertility declined, the UK rates fell more rapidly than London, while at ages where fertility has increased the UK rates rose faster than London. In London the greatest contribution to fertility is now being made by women aged over 30, but in the UK as a whole the greatest contribution is still being made by those below 30. The summation of these measures is the TFR. In London it has increased from 1.72 to 1.95, while in the UK the rise has been less rapid from 1.82 to 1.96. These apparent paradoxes in the fertility measures reflect the separate changes in the age structures of London and the UK – London has become more extreme with the proportion of women aged 15-44, and especially 25-34, increasing compared with relative declines in the UK.

Table 4: Fertility Measures, United Kingdom and London, 1991 and 2008

	1991		2008	
	UK	London	UK	London
<20	33	29	26	23
20-24	89	69	74	68
25-29	120	97	108	89
30-34	87	96	113	110
35-39	32	47	58	78
40+	5	10	12	21
General Fertility Rate ¹	64	64	63	69
Total Fertility Rate ²	1.82	1.72	1.96	1.95
Crude Birth Rate ³	13.8	15.5	12.9	16.7
Total Births (000s)	792.3	105.8	794.4	127.7

¹ Births per thousand resident women aged 15-44.

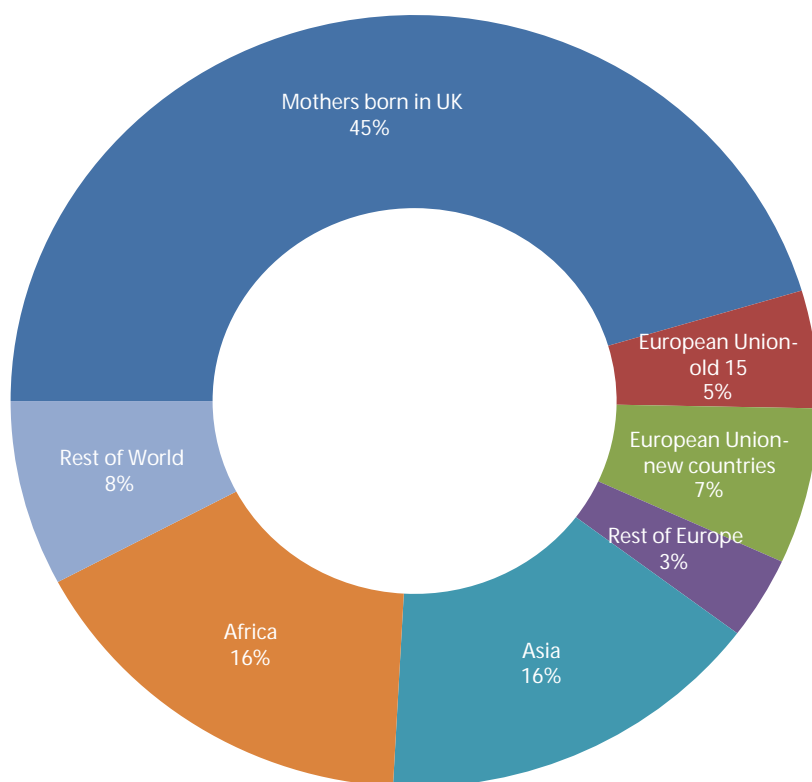
² Estimated lifetime births per woman based on current age-specific rates.

³ Births per thousand resident population.

Source: Office for National Statistics

A major contributor to the increased numbers of young women in London is international migration. This is reflected in the birth statistics for 2008 (Chart 4, p.10) when nearly 55 per cent of births in London were to women born outside the UK. On this measure London was the highest region and the only one to have more than the England & Wales average of 24 per cent. Of all local authorities only Slough has a higher level than London – 56 per cent – but 15 individual London boroughs had higher proportions than Slough, led by Newham and Brent at over 70 per cent. London had 41 per cent of all births to women born outside the UK that occurred in England & Wales. This compared to just 11 per cent of births to UK-born women. In London most of the 'non-UK' births were to women from Africa (21 thousand) and Asia (20 thousand).

Chart 4: Live Births by Birthplace of Mother, London, 2008, thousands



Note: The 'European Union - new countries' constitutes the twelve countries which have joined the European Union since 2004.
The 'European Union - old 15' comprises of fifteen member states which joined before 2004.

Source: Office for National Statistics

While in London the young age structure leads to a relatively high number of births the reverse is true for deaths (Table 5). London's crude death rate in 2008 was only 6.6 (per thousand resident population) compared with 9.4 for the United Kingdom. The most straightforward way of measuring relative mortality between areas is the standardised mortality ratio (SMR) which compares actual recorded deaths in an area to the number that would have occurred if the standard (in this case, UK) age-specific mortality rates applied in each locality. For London the SMR is 92, implying that age-specific mortality rates are on average 8 per cent lower than for the UK as a whole. In 2008 London only had higher mortality rates for males at ages 45-64 and for females at 1-4 and 45-54. Over age 65, where mortality rates are highest, London has significantly better survivorship.

Table 5: Mortality Measures, United Kingdom and London, 2008, rates per thousand people

		0 ¹	1-4	5-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	SMR ² UK=100	CDR ³
Males	UK	5.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	1.0	1.8	3.2	8.8	22.7	62.2	162.6	100	-
	London	4.7	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.6	1.4	3.5	9.3	22.5	57.0	144.5	93	-
Females	UK	4.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.1	2.1	5.7	14.6	45.0	146.6	100	-
	London	3.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.9	2.1	5.1	13.6	40.6	133.6	91	-
All	UK	4.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.5	2.6	7.2	18.4	52.3	151.6	100	9.4
	London	4.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	2.8	7.1	17.7	47.5	137.3	92	6.6

¹ Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

² Standardised mortality rate (SMR) is the ratio of observed deaths to those expected by applying a standard death rate to the area's population.

³ Crude death rate.

Source: Office for National Statistics

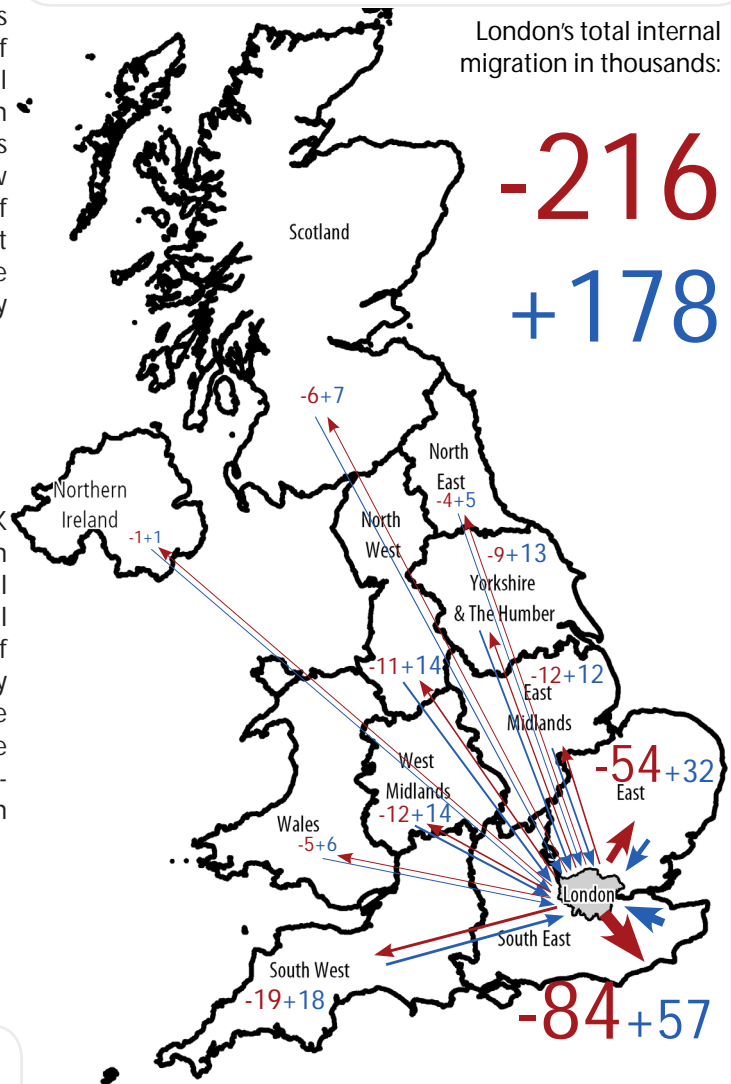
Migration

The importance of migration in shaping London's population should not be underestimated even if the combined net impact of UK and international migration has, in recent years, generally been negative. London is the hub for migration flows into and within the UK. This section will show the importance of London as the main focus of international migration to the UK as well as a magnet for students and young workers from the rest of the UK. London then becomes the main source of family and retirement migrants to the rest of the UK.

Internal Migration

This section considers migration within the UK at country and English regional level. The main source of data on long term trends of inter-regional migration is people re-registering with general practitioners (GPs). To partly overcome problems of late re-registration of young adults, ONS has recently added an analysis of moving students to enhance internal migration in the annual mid-year estimate change analysis – see p.6. However, here the GP re-registrations are considered independently based on the annualised tabulations available each quarter.

Chart 5: Inter-regional Flows to and from London, Year to December 2009, thousands



Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 1: Ten Largest Interregional Flows in the UK, Year to December 2009

1. London to South East: 84k
2. South East to London: 57k
3. London to East: 54k
4. South East to South West: 39k
5. East to London: 32k
6. South West to South East: 32k
7. East to South East: 27k
8. South East to East: 24k
9. London to South West: 19k
10. North West to Yorks & Humber: 19k

Source: National Health Service Central Register

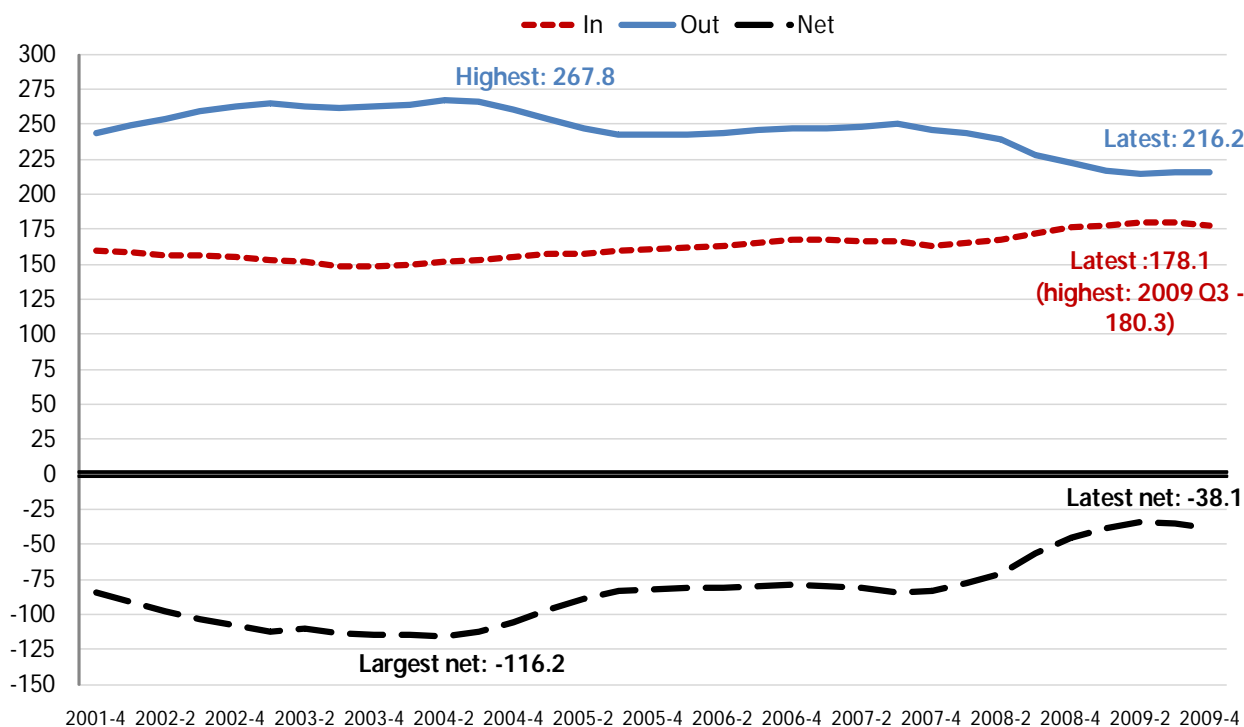
The 2001 Census showed that over two-thirds of moves in the UK were of less than 10 kilometres therefore it is not surprising that inter-regional moves between the UK's only city-region and its two neighbours, the East and South East, should be four of the top five inter-regional flows (Figure 1). In excess of two million Londoners live in boroughs that have boundaries with each of these regions; therefore many short distance radial moves away from the centre of London will have destinations in the adjacent regions (Chart 5). Inter-regional migration is largely concentrated in the greater South East with the nine largest flows having at least one of London, the East or South East as an origin or destination and all six flows between the three regions being in the top ten.

Table 6: Internal Migration Flows to and from London, Countries of the UK and English Regions, selected years, thousands of people

	2001-02			2006-07			Year to Dec. 2009		
	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net	In	Out	Net
United Kingdom	156.0	254.2	-98.2	167.0	248.4	-81.4	178.1	216.2	-38.1
England	142.4	238.6	-96.2	154.5	234.5	-80.0	164.7	203.9	-39.2
North East	4.7	4.5	0.2	4.8	3.9	0.9	5.3	3.5	1.8
North West	12.3	13.0	-0.7	12.2	11.9	0.3	13.7	11.3	2.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	9.9	10.6	-0.7	10.8	9.8	1.0	12.5	8.9	3.6
East Midlands	10.1	14.7	-4.6	11.4	12.4	-1.0	12.2	11.8	0.4
West Midlands	11.4	12.8	-1.4	12.3	12.1	0.2	14.3	11.7	2.6
East	28.4	65.1	-36.7	30.8	64.9	-34.1	31.9	53.7	-21.8
South East	50.6	93.9	-43.3	55.9	97.1	-41.2	57.4	82.6	-25.2
South West	15.0	24.1	-9.1	16.3	22.4	-6.1	17.9	19.4	-1.5
Wales	4.9	5.8	-0.9	5.0	5.3	-0.3	5.5	4.7	0.8
Scotland	7.3	7.8	-0.5	6.2	6.9	-0.7	6.6	6.3	0.3
Northern Ireland	1.4	2.0	-0.6	1.3	1.8	-0.5	1.3	1.3	0.0

Source: Office for National Statistics

Chart 6: Annualised¹ Internal Migration Flows, London, Quarterly to December 2009, thousands



¹ 12 months up to a given period, for example the December 2009 figure refers to the January - December 2009 period.

Source: National Health Service Central Register

The changing migration flows to and from London since 2001-02 are illustrated in Table 6 (p.12). Nearly all of the highest flows to London have occurred in the latest period, while, with the exception of the South East, all of the greatest out flows occurred at the earliest period. In 2001-02 London only had a net inflow from the North East but in the year to December 2009 London had net gains from all regions except the East, South East and South West. However, the small gains are swamped by the losses to the South East (25 thousand) and East (22 thousand). Overall London's net loss was 38 thousand. The net loss from London has not traditionally been this low (Chart 6, p.12) Current levels are the lowest for twenty years and the net loss was as high as 116 thousand as recently as 2004.

Table 7: Internal Migration, changes in selected flows between June 2007 and December 2009, percentages

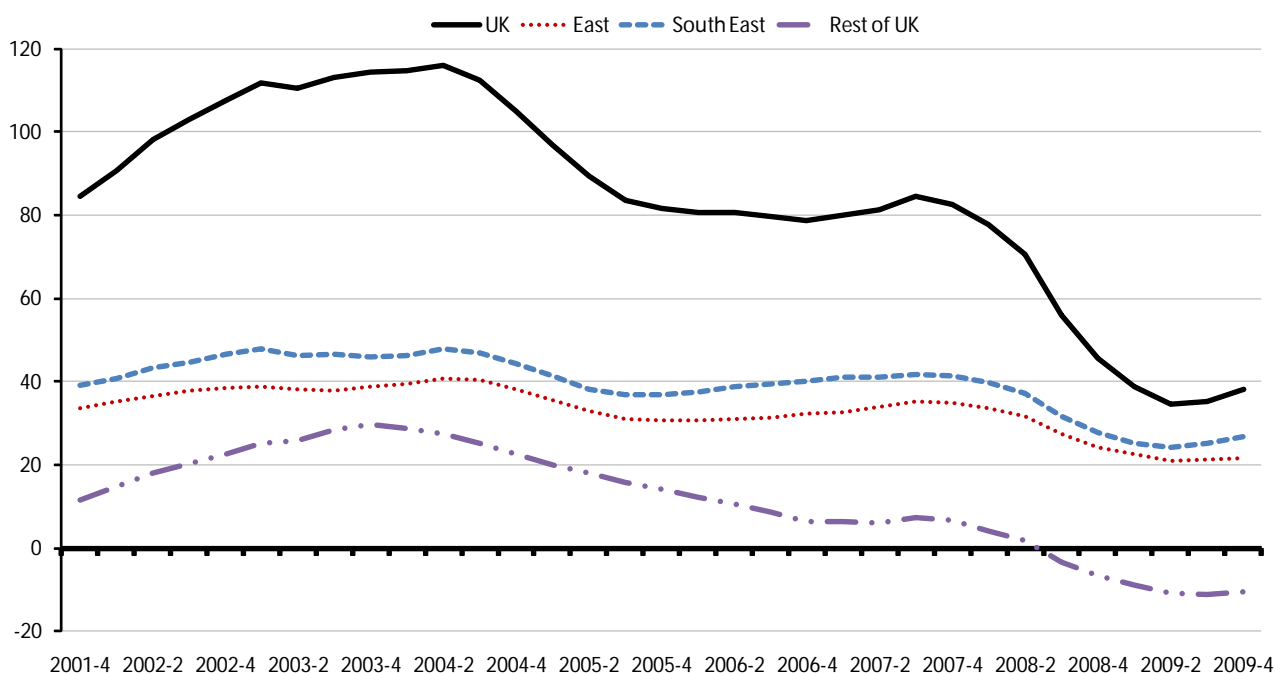
		To:				
		East	London	South East	Rest of UK	Total
From:	East		3.6	-8.9	-11.1	-7.0
	London	-17.3		-13.9	-8.7	-13.0
	South East	-7.3	1.8		-13.2	-8.3
	Rest of UK	-3.3	9.8	-4.5		1.7
Total		-9.7	6.6	-8.9	-7.5	-6.1

Source: Office for National Statistics

The most significant changes have taken place over between June 2007 and December 2009. The outflow from London has fallen by over 13 per cent while the inflow increased by 7 per cent to reach new record levels since GP registrations were used to estimate internal migration in the 1980s (Table 7). The recent changes have their roots in the period of economic uncertainty. In the UK as a whole, inter-regional moves declined by 6 per cent between the years ending June 2007 and December 2009. Most people leaving London for other parts of the UK are

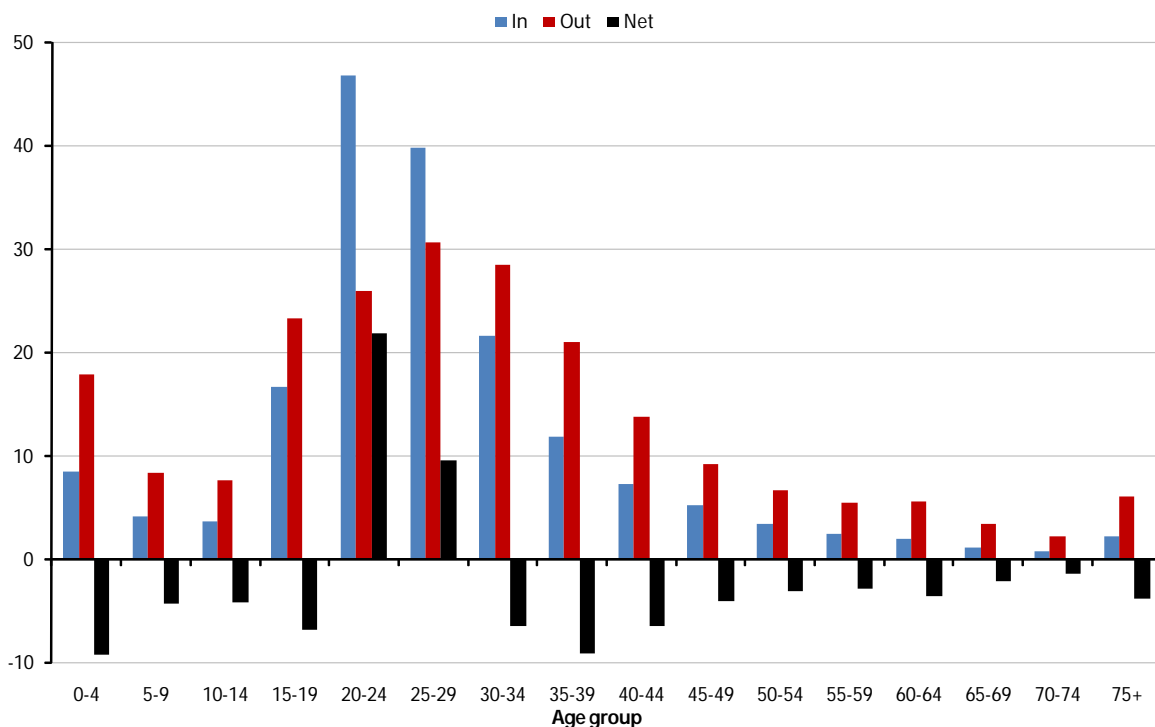
moving into owner occupation. The increased difficulty in obtaining a mortgage has limited the ability of many families to leave London. At the same time there has been an increase in participation in higher education and the London job market for young workers has not been as affected as much as other parts of the country, hence the only inter-regional flows that have increased over the last two years have been those with destinations in London. Most of the people moving to London are young and will look for accommodation in the expanding private renting sector.

Chart 7: Annualised Net Internal Migration from London to East, South East and the Rest of the UK, Quarterly to December 2009, thousands



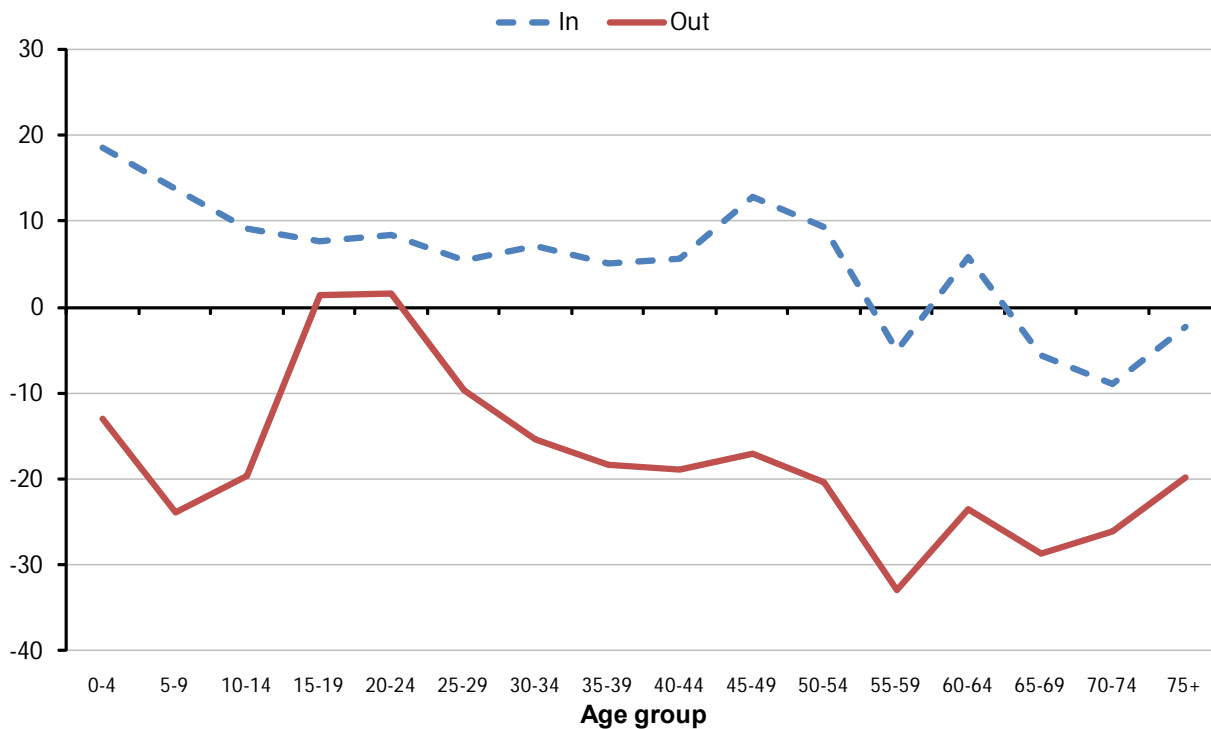
Source: National Health Service Central Register

Chart 8: Internal Migration Flows by Age, London, Year to December 2009, thousands



Source: National Health Service Central Register

Chart 9: Internal Migration Flows by Age, London, differences between years ending September 2007 and December 2009, percentages



Source: National Health Service Central Register

The impacts of the recent changes in migration are illustrated by the net flows between London and the East, the South East and the Rest of UK since 2001 (Chart 7, p.13). The net losses from London to the East and the South East both peaked in 2004 and were both flat between 2005 and the end of 2008. After which they fell dramatically to around half of the 2004 values by mid-2009. On the other hand London's relationship with the Rest of the UK has completely turned around. From losses of 30 thousand in 2004 there has been a decline in almost every subsequent quarter leading to a net inflow to London in the year ending September 2008 and a net inflow to London of 11 thousand in the year to September 2009.

The inflow to London is dominated by people aged 20-29, the only ages at which there is also a net inflow (Chart 8, p.14). Few school-age children and people over 50 move to London. The age profile of the outflow is less extreme having a significant number of pre-school

children as well as all ages between 15 and 39. The largest net losses are seen at 0-4, 15-19 and 30-44.

Comparing the latest flows by age, with those in the year to September 2007 (Chart 9, p.14) shows that the increased inflows are, proportionally, fairly evenly spread at all ages below 55, with reductions in the relatively small flows at higher ages. Although overall there was a reduction in the outflow there were some increases in the late teens and early twenties, possibly as a result of more Londoners going to university outside London. The greatest proportional reductions in the outflow are at ages around and above retirement. Although the retirement moves away from London are relatively small, 23 thousand persons aged over 55 compared to 31 thousand at ages

The only age group with a net inflow to London from the rest of the UK is the 20-29 age group.

Table 8: Internal Migration, the Three Largest Inter-regional Flows from each Region of Origin, Year to December 2009, thousands

Region of Origin	Largest Region of Destination	Flow (000s)	2nd Largest Region of Destination	Flow (000s)	3rd Largest Region of Destination	Flow (000s)	Average Top 3 Flow (000s)
London	S East	83.6	East	53.7	S West	19.4	52.2
South East	London	56.9	S West	39.1	East	24.1	40.0
East	London	31.9	S East	26.7	E Mids	15.6	24.7
South West	S East	31.8	London	17.9	W Mids	11.4	20.4
East Midlands	Yorks & H	15.7	W Mids	14.0	S East	13.5	14.4
West Midlands	E Mids	15.5	S West	14.4	London	14.3	14.7
Yorkshire & the Humber	N West	18.0	E Mids	17.2	London	12.5	15.9
North West	Yorks & H	18.6	London	13.7	W Mids	11.4	14.6
North East	Yorks & H	9.1	N West	5.8	London	5.3	6.7
Wales	S West	9.4	N West	8.3	W Mids	7.2	8.3
Scotland	London	6.6	N West	5.9	S East	5.6	6.0
Northern Ireland	N West	2.2	Scotland	2.1	London	1.3	1.9

Grey background flows are between non-contiguous regions.

Source: National Health Service Central Register

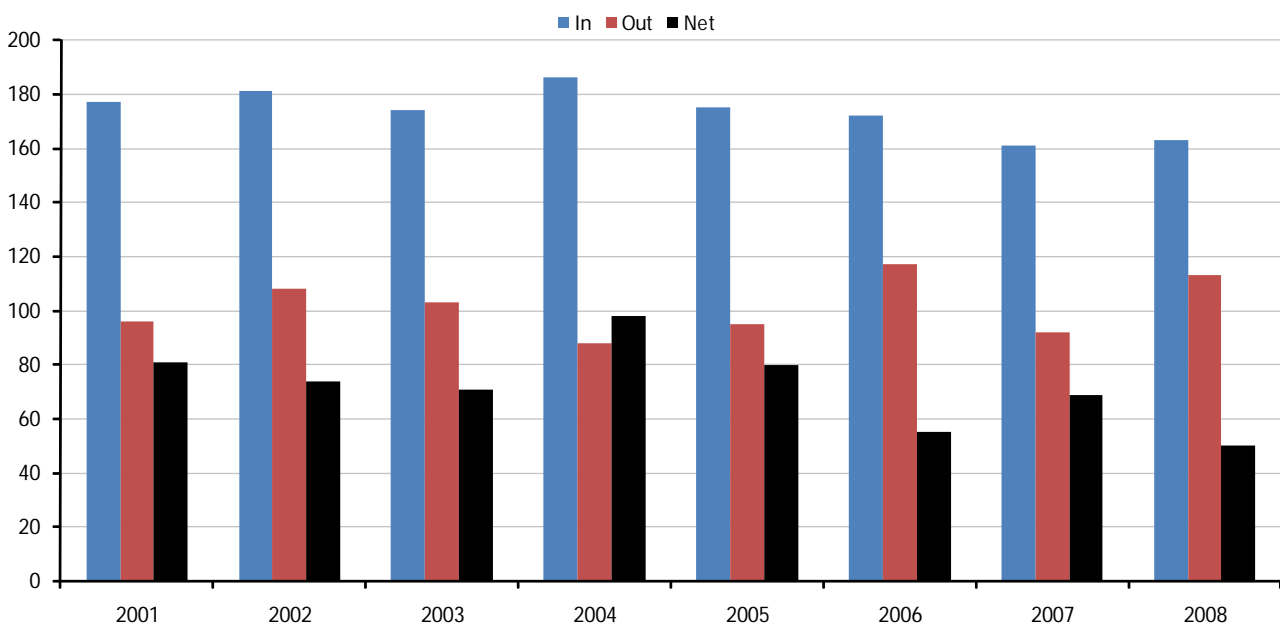
25-29, this group includes people who realise some of the capital locked up in their London properties to part-fund their retirement. The length and depth of the economic downturn may mean that for some of these people the move away from London will never happen. This would have knock-on effects on the NHS and London borough social services in future years, when there is already expected to be a significant growth in London's elderly population.

Migration changes at the pre-school ages (0-4) have recently contributed to exacerbating the impact of the rise in births since 2001 on the education services of London boroughs. The absolute decline in the out flow, even with a rising population of under-5s, coupled with the increase in the in flow has reduced the expected net out flow from London of children aged 0 to 4. Therefore reception class places have been oversubscribed in several boroughs and most boroughs are catering for more children than were expected. The ONS mid-year estimates show that between 2005 and 2009 the number of 4-year olds in London rose by nearly 15 thousand, while the number of births in London which gave rise to these cohorts had increased by just over 10 thousand.

Table 8 (p.15) illustrates the dominance of London as the hub of migration between the UK's regions. It shows the three largest flows from each region starting

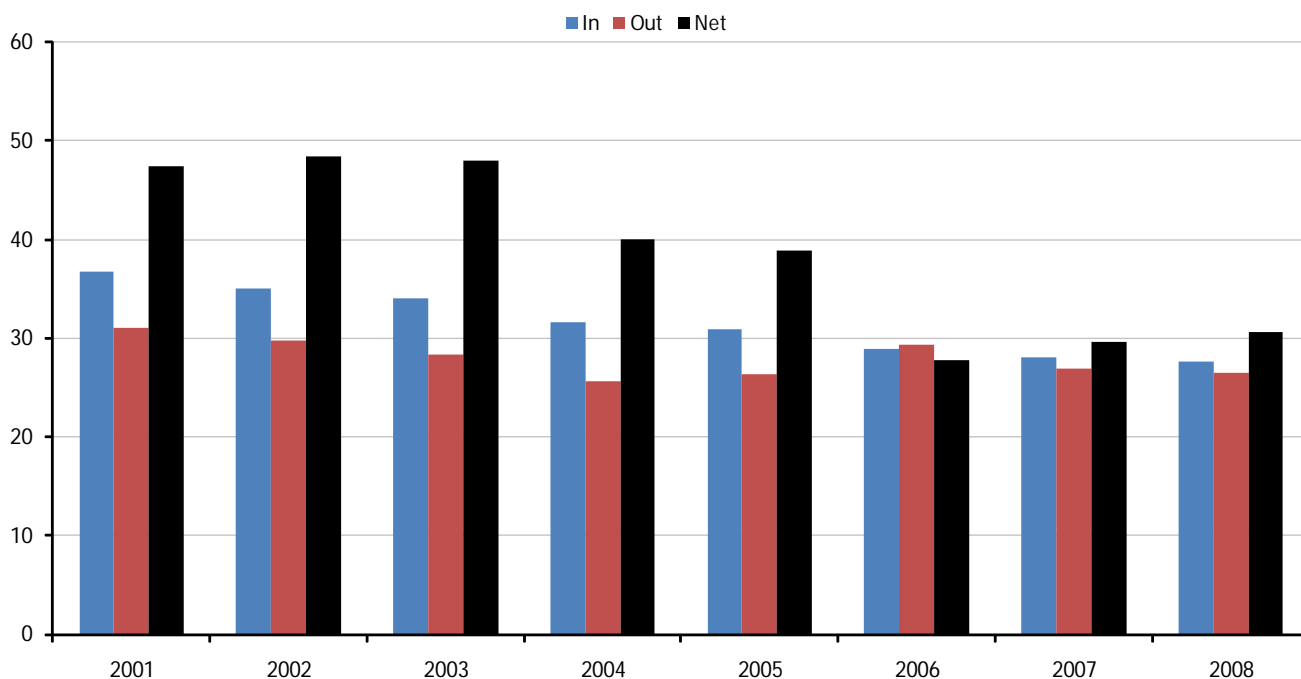
with the flows from London to the South East, East and South West. It then picks out the three main destinations of flows from those three regions. This brings in two additional regions, the East Midlands and the West Midlands. The East Midlands brings in Yorkshire and the Humber, which then adds the North West to the cascade. This successive process fails to show any strong links with the North East nor with Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. At successive stages of the cascade the average of the three largest flows also declines, from over 50 thousand from London to two thousand from, small and geographically isolated, Northern Ireland. The populations of the North East, Wales and Northern Ireland are significantly lower than those of Scotland and the other regions, therefore out flows from these areas are expected to be lower. Flows between non-contiguous regions are indicated by a grey background. London is one of the three most popular destinations for seven of the nine regions with which it does not share a boundary, the exceptions being the East Midlands and Wales. The only other non-contiguous flows illustrated are those from London to the South West and from Scotland to the South East. London is a favoured destination for nine of the eleven other regions/countries. The next most favoured destinations, with five, are the South East and the North West, which has land boundaries with Wales, Scotland and three English regions as well as being the closest part of England to Northern Ireland.

Chart 10: International Migration Flows, London, 2001 to 2008, thousands



Source: Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration

Chart 11: International Migration Flows, London as a Percentage of UK, 2001 to 2008



Source: Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration

International Migration

There are several definitions of international migration. Long-term migrants intend to stay in the UK (or leave the UK) for at least a year. People meeting this standard United Nations definition are included in the ONS estimates of the resident population. People, who intend to stay (or leave) the UK for less than a year are described as short-term migrants. These moves are not included in resident population estimates. ONS has experimentally estimated short-term migrant flows for England and Wales on the basis of stays of 1-12 months and 3-12 months, with some analysis of purpose of stay. ONS has also issued local authority level estimates relating to 2006-07 for consultation purposes.

Estimates of international migration are drawn from a number of sources, the principal of which is the International Passenger Survey (IPS), which has recently been improved to concentrate more on migrants, as opposed to tourism, and now, with the inclusion of the Republic of Ireland, includes moves with all countries outside the UK. At the regional level IPS immigrant estimates are distributed using data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). IPS emigrant estimates

are distributed by a modelling process. Other sources are UK Borders Agency administrative data on asylum seekers and estimates of switchers, that is persons whose actual length of stay (either in or outside the UK) is different from their original intentions. These three sources together are combined to create the ONS estimates of Long-term International Migration (LTIM). There are also administrative data sets that are useful as indicators of international migration. Of these, National Insurance and National Health Service data are considered below.

Since 2001, the share of immigrants coming to the UK and choosing London fell from 37 per cent to 28 per cent.

The latest estimates of Long-term International Migration relating to London are shown in Chart 3 (p.7). These are from the recently revised mid-year estimates series. ONS data in the LTIM series are available in both calendar year and mid-year to mid-year formats, but have not yet been revised to match the flows used in the mid-year estimates. The main difference is in the distribution of emigrants, but Charts 10 (p.16) and 11 adequately illustrate the main trends of change through the decade. Since 2001 London has seen its share of total immigration to the UK fall from around 37 per cent to 28 per cent. The data on emigration are more difficult to

Table 9: National Insurance Registrations by Citizens of the Twelve EU Accession Countries, UK and London, 2002/03 to 2008/09, thousands

	London	UK	London as % of UK
2002/03	11.3	17.7	64.2
2003/04	18.8	28.7	65.5
2004/05	38.0	116.8	32.5
2005/06	63.7	276.7	23.0
2006/07	68.9	317.5	21.7
2007/08	87.7	332.4	26.4
2008/09	74.4	257.0	28.9

Source: Department for Work and Pensions

collect and estimate, therefore there are less clear trends, but London's share of emigration has also fallen, though not as fast, from around 31 per cent to 26 per cent. In 2006 and 2006-07 London's share of emigration was estimated to have exceeded its share of immigration, which meant that London's share of the net inflow to the UK plummeted from 42 per cent in 2005-06 to 28 per cent in 2006. More recently London's share of the UK net inflow has been around 31 per cent, but of a significantly reduced total.

There are a number of indicators based on administrative sources that give additional evidence about international flows into the UK. However none such exist for emigration. [Charts 12 and 13 \(both p.19\)](#)

Table 10: Asylum Seekers (from the mid-year estimate change analyses), England and London, 2001-02 to 2008-09, thousands

	London	England	London as % of England
2001-02	43.4	85.1	51.0
2002-03	37.7	76.4	49.3
2003-04	18.6	39.8	46.8
2004-05	12.4	28.2	43.8
2005-06	9.1	21.7	42.1
2006-07	8.1	20.1	40.3
2007-08	8.1	21.7	37.2
2008-09	8.9	24.9	35.9

Source: Office for National Statistics

compare in flows based on the mid-year estimates, National Insurance Numbers (NINOs) issued to foreign nationals, and new registrations from overseas to the National Health Service, referred to as Flag 4s. ONS is currently using the NINOs and Flag 4s in its modelling of the distribution of international inflows to local authorities within regions - but not at regional level. Hence there is independence between the three sources, but it must be borne in mind that there are inconsistencies in the definitions that are being used. NINOs are frequently issued several years after the person's arrival in the UK. The NHS requires three months residence before registration. Neither source distinguishes between potential long-term (more than a year) and short-term UK residence intentions, which is a key definitional issue for the ONS LTIM estimates used in the mid-year estimates.

In terms of numbers of arrivals the NINOs show the huge rise in labour migration to London after the eight Eastern European countries (the A8) were admitted to the EU in May 2004. Up to mid-2009 new NINOs in London had plateaued, but nationally new registrations have fallen from the 2007-08 peak, partly as a consequence of the reduced demand for labour in the recession. The Flag 4s have continued to rise in London and are broadly at the same level as the Mid-year Estimates/Long-term International Migration. Nationally Flag 4s have fallen from a peak in 2007-08. In terms of the proportion of the inflows to England that are accounted for by London, until 2006-07 all three data sources show a declining share coming to London. Flag 4s are very similar to the Mid-year Estimates/Long-term International Migration but London is having a considerably higher share of NINO registrations. This could be a function of short-term labour migration and/or registration at a first address before moving out of London. The proportions of both NINOs and Flag 4s in London have increased in the latest periods. This may also be due to recession effects with reduced demand for labour being seen more outside London.

The impact of all twelve EU accession countries, including Cyprus and Malta in 2004 and Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, on NINO registrations is shown in [Table 9](#). Numbers rose much more rapidly outside London after 2004 and the proportion coming to London fell from 65 per cent to 22 per cent in 2006/07. With total numbers stabilising in 2007/08 and then falling, the proportion coming to London in 2008/09 has increased to 29 per cent.

ONS has recently issued provisional national estimates based on the IPS showing that in the year to the end

